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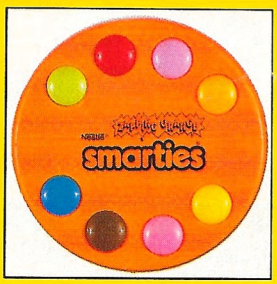
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Nestlé
smarties
ZAPPER TOKEN INSIDE!



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NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Thomas is a Really Useful Engine who has many exciting adventures on his branch line. In the story that begins on page 3, it is a very windy evening and Thomas is hoping to return safely to his engine shed. But there is danger near Wellsworth station! Don't miss our second story either. Will Henry be too late to catch the ferry? Peep! Peep!

SMARTIES ZAPPER OFFER!

In our next issue (153) of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, we have 20 Smarties Zappers (see below) to give away. For our readers who are already saving Zapper tokens from Smarties tubes, there is another free token to cut out on page 14/15.

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

Address .....

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THOMAS TOKEN

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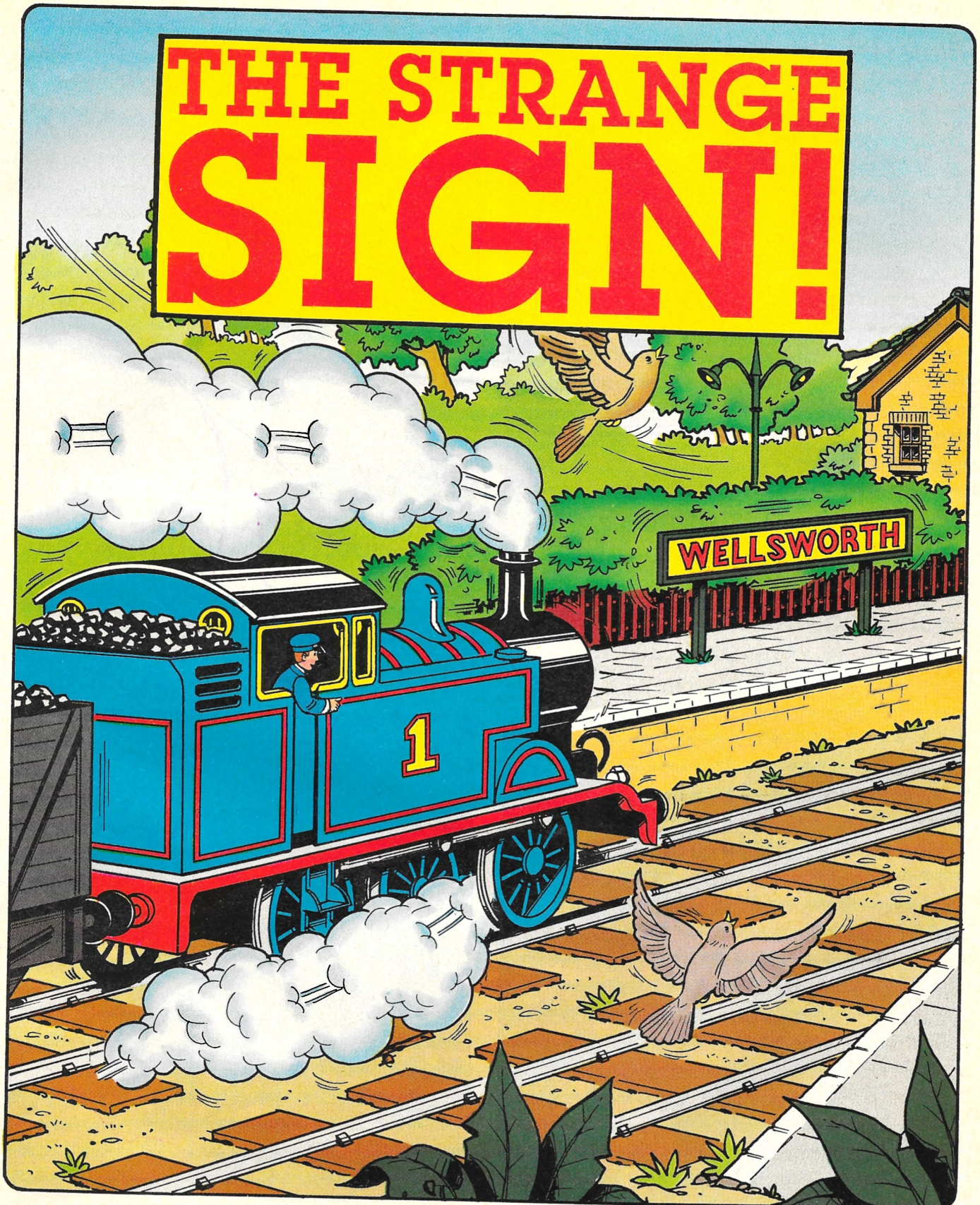
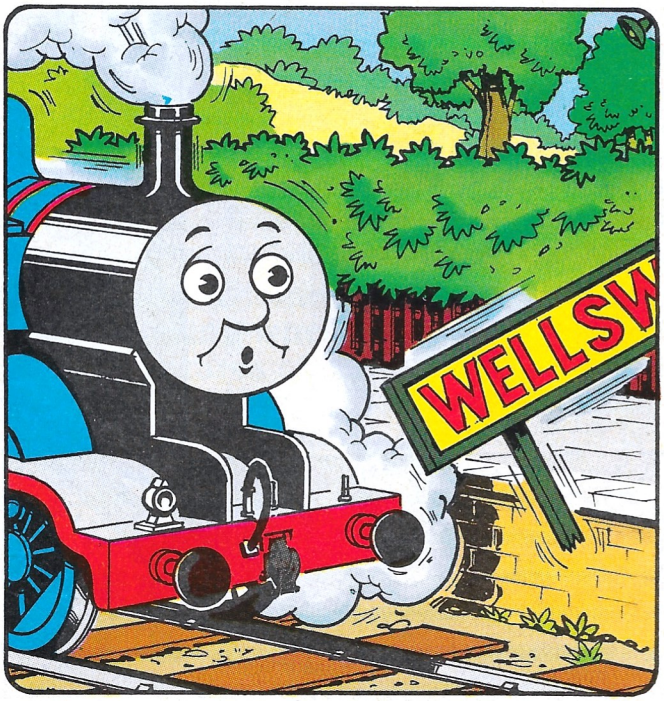
THE STRANGE SIGN!

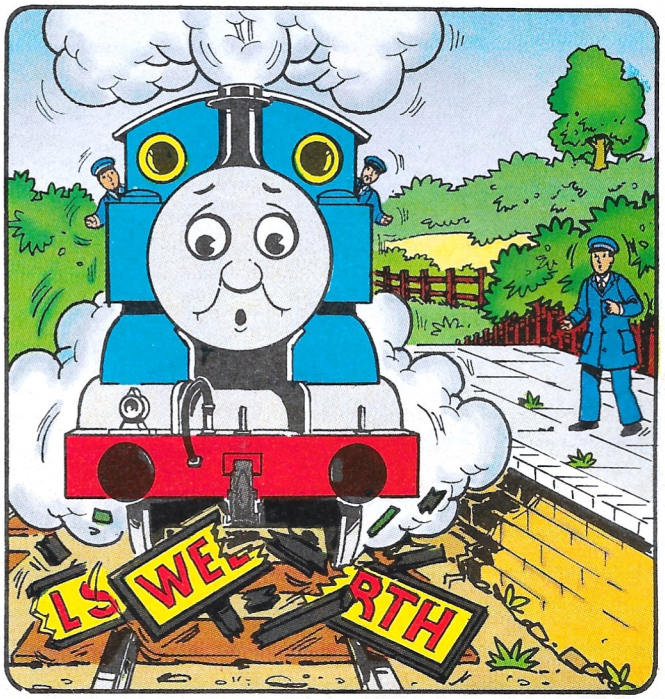


1. One evening, Thomas was working late. As he pulled a goods train along his branch line, a fierce wind blew into his face. Thomas struggled to keep up his speed as he puffed into the wind.

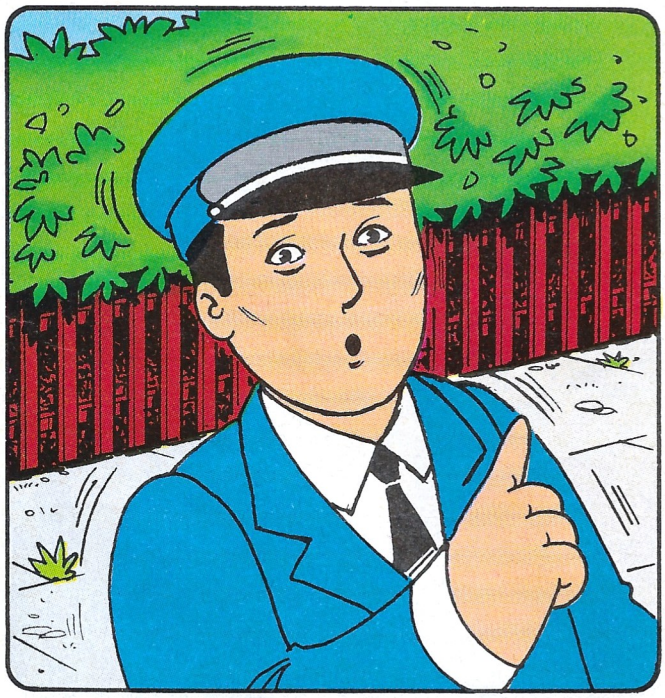
2. At last, he approached Wellsworth station. The wind bent the trees and buffeted the hedge behind the platform. The station sign swayed and creaked.



3. Suddenly, there was a dreadful noise and the station sign blew down onto the track, right in front of Thomas. What a shock! "Look out Thomas," said his driver.

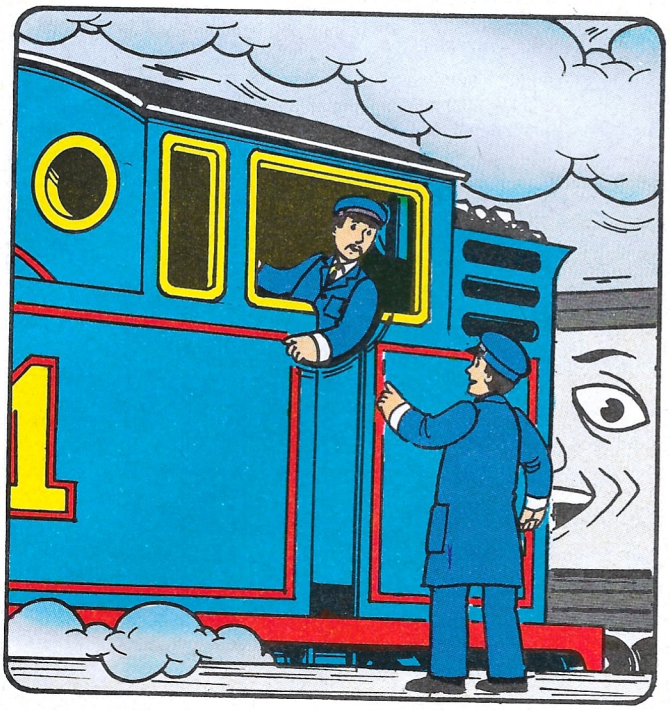


4. The driver quickly put the brake on, but Thomas could not stop in time. He ran right into the sign. It broke into several pieces with a loud CRASH!

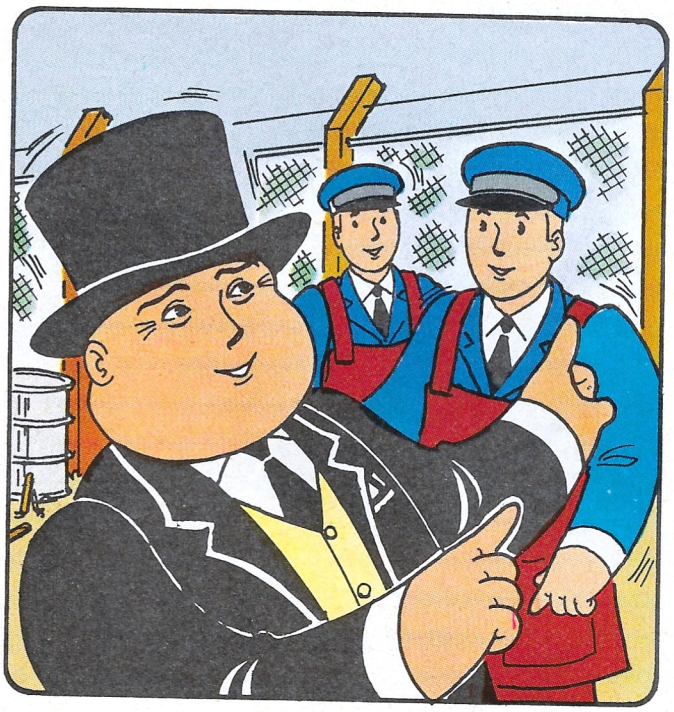


5. "Smoke and fire!" gasped Thomas. "What will the Fat Controller say?" The stationmaster heard the noise and hurried down the platform to see if anyone was hurt.

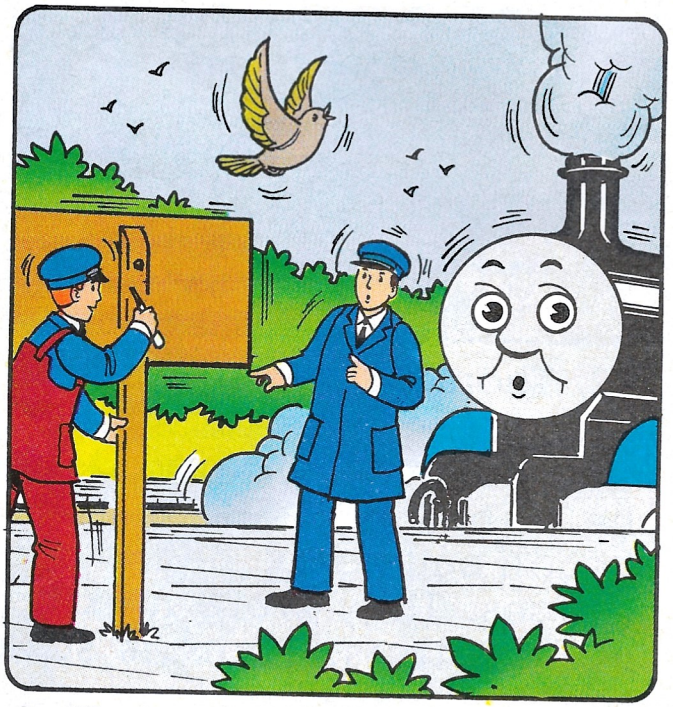
6. "Thomas is all right, but your station sign is useless now," called the driver. He got down from his cab and helped the stationmaster to pick up the pieces.



7. "I'll ring the Fat Controller and tell him what's happened!" said the stationmaster. The driver went back to his cab and moved Thomas into a siding.

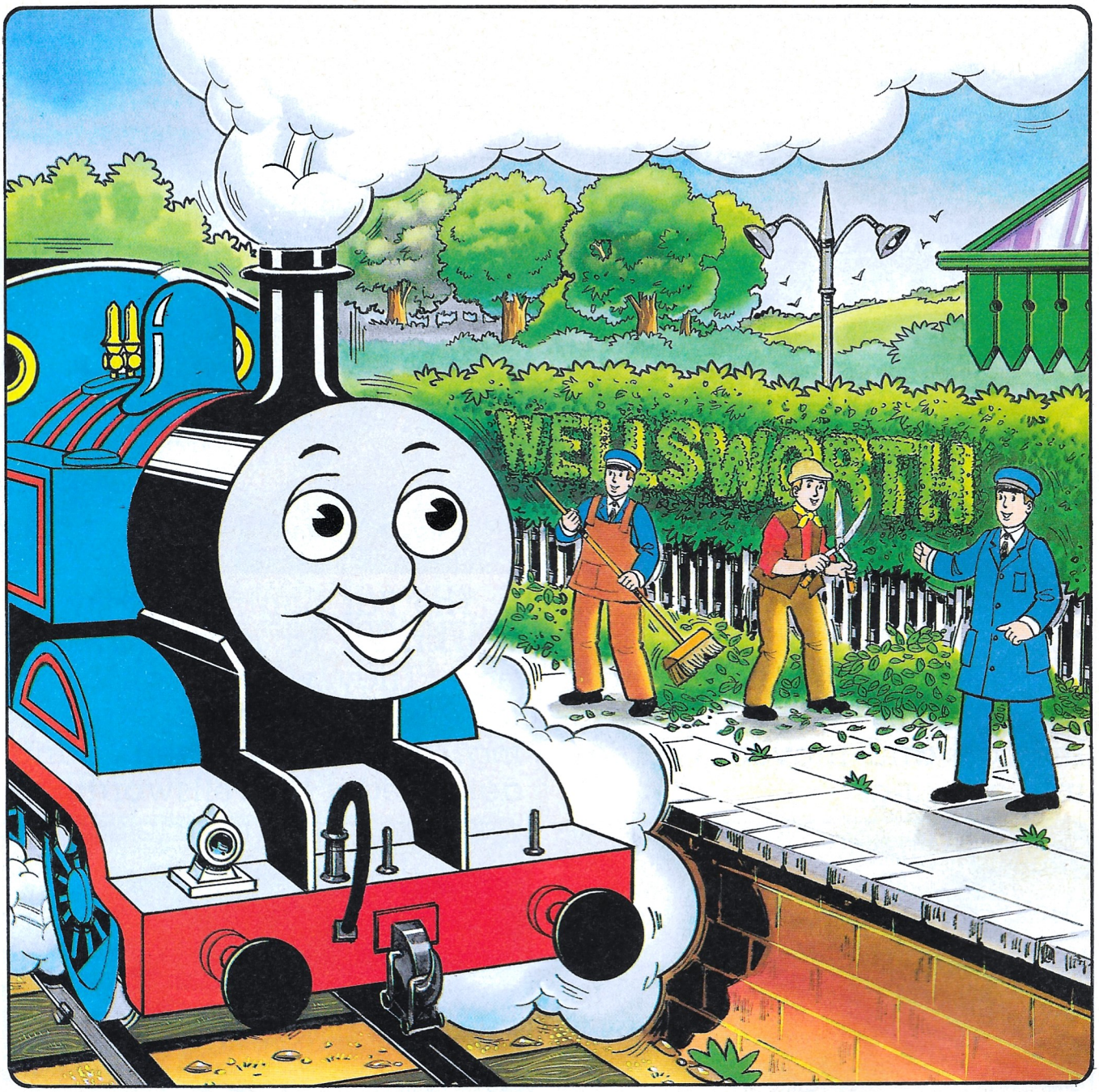


8. The Fat Controller told his workmen to make a new sign. They worked all night to finish it. Early next morning, Thomas collected it and delivered it to Wellsworth.



9. The workmen put the sign on to the platform while the stationmaster was busy in his office. But when he came out to look at the sign, he gasped. "Oh, dear!" he said.

10. "What's wrong?" the workman asked him. "Wellsworth doesn't have two Ts!" replied the stationmaster. "It's been spelled wrongly."



11. The workmen were sorry they had made a mistake, but they did not have time to make another sign that day. "How will the passengers know which station this is?" frowned the stationmaster. Thomas was worried. Then his driver saw a gardener clipping the hedge behind the platform. "I've got an idea!" the driver said.

12. Thomas's driver spoke to the gardener, who smiled and called some guards to help him. At once they began cutting the hedge into shapes. They were making huge letters. Thomas saw they spelled out "WELLSWORTH". "That's clever!" he said. "You've made the best station sign on the Island of Sodor!"

THE END!

In out next issue: Special duty!

THE FAT CONTROLLER'S PICTURES PAGE!

Look at these colourful drawings of Thomas and his friends!

Here is a picture of **Thomas** and **Trevor** in the orchard. Our warmest thanks go out to *Andrew Chadwick* from Workingham, Cumbria.

Thomas is pulling **Annie** and **Clarabel** down his branch line. This charming drawing has been sent by *Anthony Sheridan*, aged 5.

Thank you all for sending in your pictures! We are sorry that we can only print a few. If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to: *The Fat Controller's Pictures Page, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.*

THOMAS AND THE POSTER!

On a hot summer's day, Thomas enjoyed visiting the Big Harbour where the sea air was fresh and cool. One morning, he was collecting some goods that had arrived by ship from the mainland.

As they were loaded by crane into Thomas's trucks, he saw a big wooden board near the quayside. It showed a picture of a pleasure-boat full of people. There was a message, in large letters, above the picture. **'TAKE A BOAT-TRIP AROUND THE BAY'**, it read.

Thomas had never seen such a huge picture before. He thought it looked splendid. When he returned to the Main Station, he spoke to his driver about it.

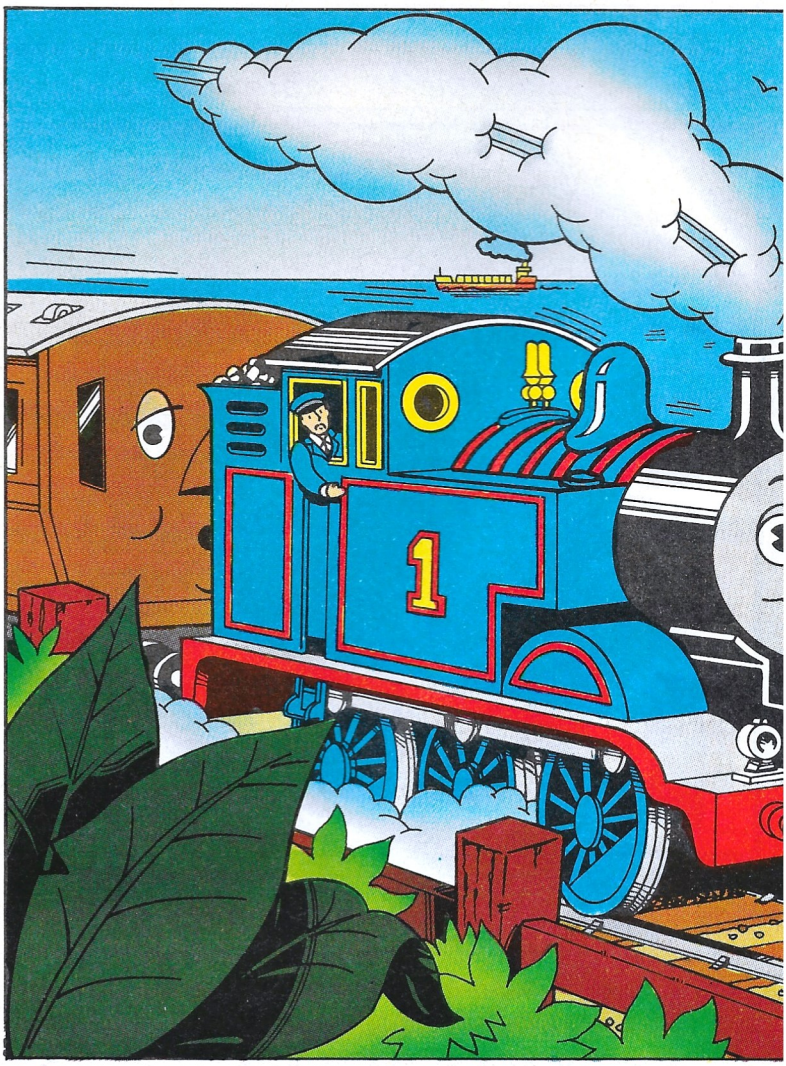
"Pictures like that are called posters," said the driver. "The bigger they are, the easier it is for people to spot them and learn about new attractions. It's called advertising!" The Fat Controller came to see Thomas's driver in the yard.

"I am re-arranging Thomas's timetable," said the Fat Controller. "Next week, he is to take a special train on the seaside line!" Thomas was excited. The Fat Controller told him the train would run between the Big Harbour and all the stations by the sea.

"You will collect day-trippers to the Island of Sodor who want to visit the beach!" said the Fat Controller.

"Cinders and ashes!" gasped Thomas. "I will be as busy as that pleasure-boat on the poster!" He told the Fat Controller all about the picture he had seen. The Fat Controller had an idea. He went back to his office and telephoned some people.

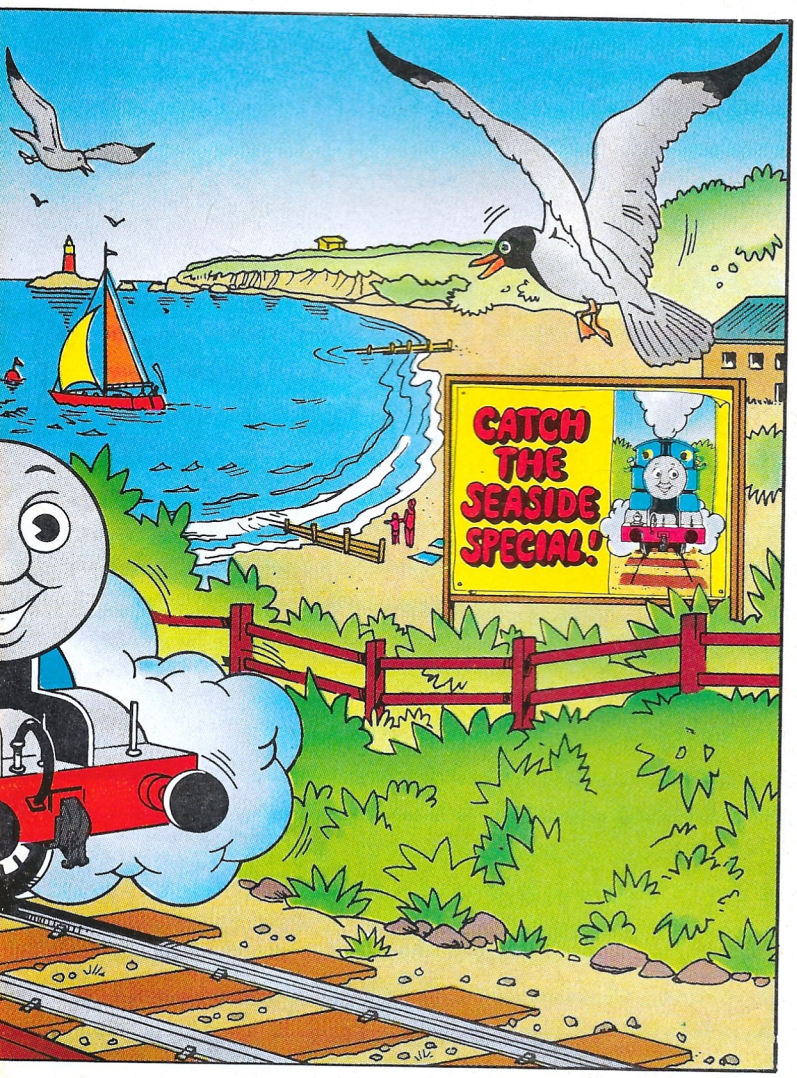
"Everything is arranged!" he said afterwards. Soon a

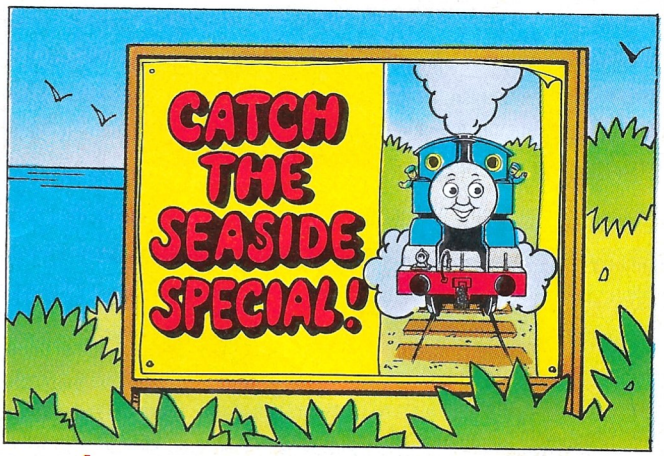


photographer arrived at the Main Station and took a picture of Thomas. "I want Thomas to be seen everywhere!" the Fat Controller told the man.
Thomas overheard. He was puzzled. He wondered how he could be seen in more than one place at a time. That night, in the shed, Thomas asked the other engines.

"I am the biggest and fastest engine!" boasted Gordon. "Even I can't be in two stations at once!"

"We can!" teased Bill and Ben, the twin Saddle-tank engines.
At last, Thomas's seaside service was to start. He was





poster

coupled to his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel. Then Thomas set off eagerly for the Big Harbour.
On the way, Thomas saw a poster beside the track. There was a big photograph of him on it. Above the picture, was a message which read: **'CATCH THE SEASIDE SPECIAL!'** Thomas was surprised. He arrived at the harbour station to collect passengers bound for the beach. When they were seated in Annie and Clarabel, Thomas puffed on his way again.

At every station on the seaside line, Thomas saw another poster. They all had his photograph on them.

"It was your picture the Fat Controller wanted people to see everywhere!" said Thomas's driver. Thomas felt proud. "I'm as famous as the pleasure-boat now!" he grinned. "I'm a Really Useful Engine to advertise the Seaside Special!"

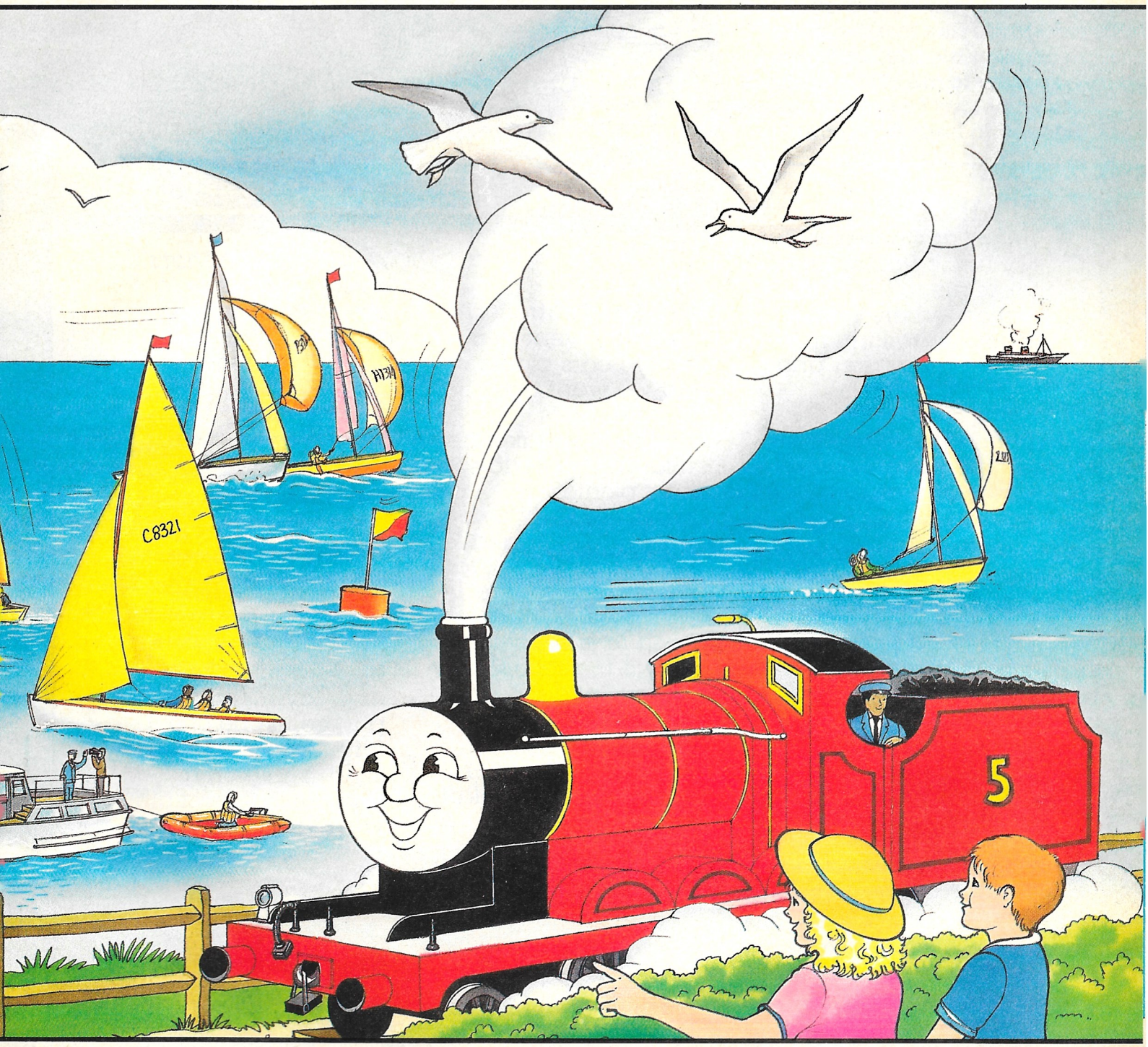
THE END!

Past the y

Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What is he puffing past?
Look at the big balloon!

Look at the yac
How many yach
Can you see Ste
Point to the sign

acht race!



race!
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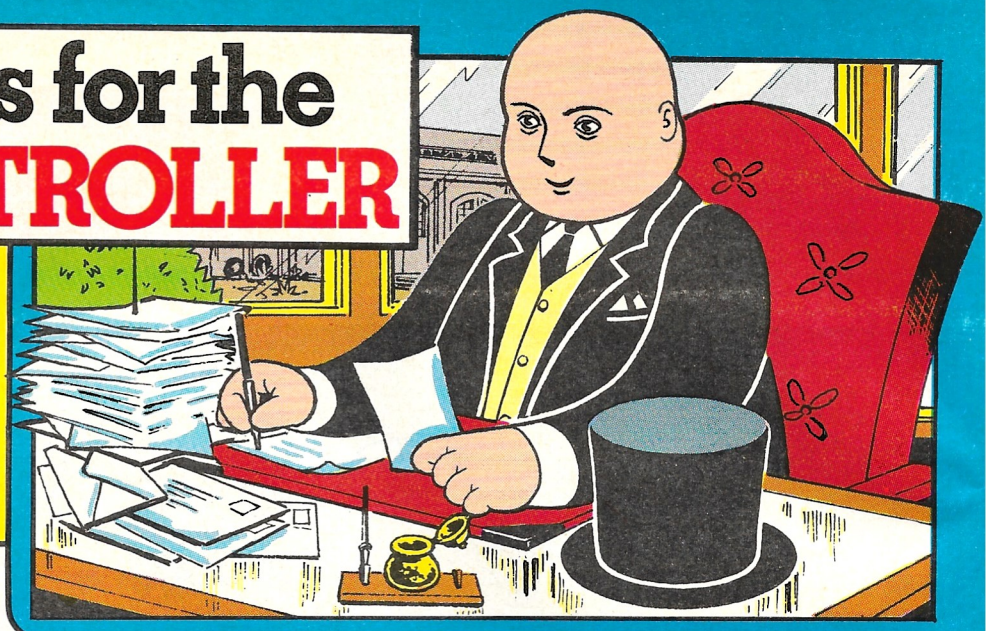
hen and Bridget?
l!

Note to parents:
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Going home!

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My uncle Ron always takes me to the train station, where I have great fun talking to the stationmaster and watching all the trains coming in. They especially remind me of Henry when they go into the tunnel!

Love from **James Russell**.

It is also Really Useful to learn about your local railway from the Stationmaster as he has the most thorough first hand knowledge of the engines on his line. I do hope you continue to learn more about railways!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

THOMAS PICNIC!

Dear Fat Controller,
I recently went to a Teddy Bears picnic and we went there by train. Does Thomas ever take the children to a Teddy Bears picnic?

Love from **Ben Taylor**, aged 3.

Yes! Thomas says that one of his favourite tasks is when he is asked to take the children to the school picnic. Once I went along with Thomas and his carriages, Annie and Clarabel. I also invited Lady Hatt and we had a big hamper of food. The children enjoyed their day very much!

FAMILIAR TRACTOR!

Dear Fat Controller,
My Daddy drives a big tractor when he is working. I like to drive in him too.I have named him **'Terence the Tractor'**.

Love from **Matthew Spence**, aged 2.

Well Matthew! That's a very fine name to give a tractor, especially if he has fine caterpillar treads too!

BIRTHDAYS!

Robert Keywood, Stuart Rhodes, Benjamin French, Liam Carter, Lewis Phillips, Chris James O'Connor, Louisa Hind, Steven Bruce, James Maltby, Matthew Orman, Aaron Houlahan, Darren Rowland Johnson, Liam Parker, Samuel Duddell, Duncan Aird and Gareth Neil Blair.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance!

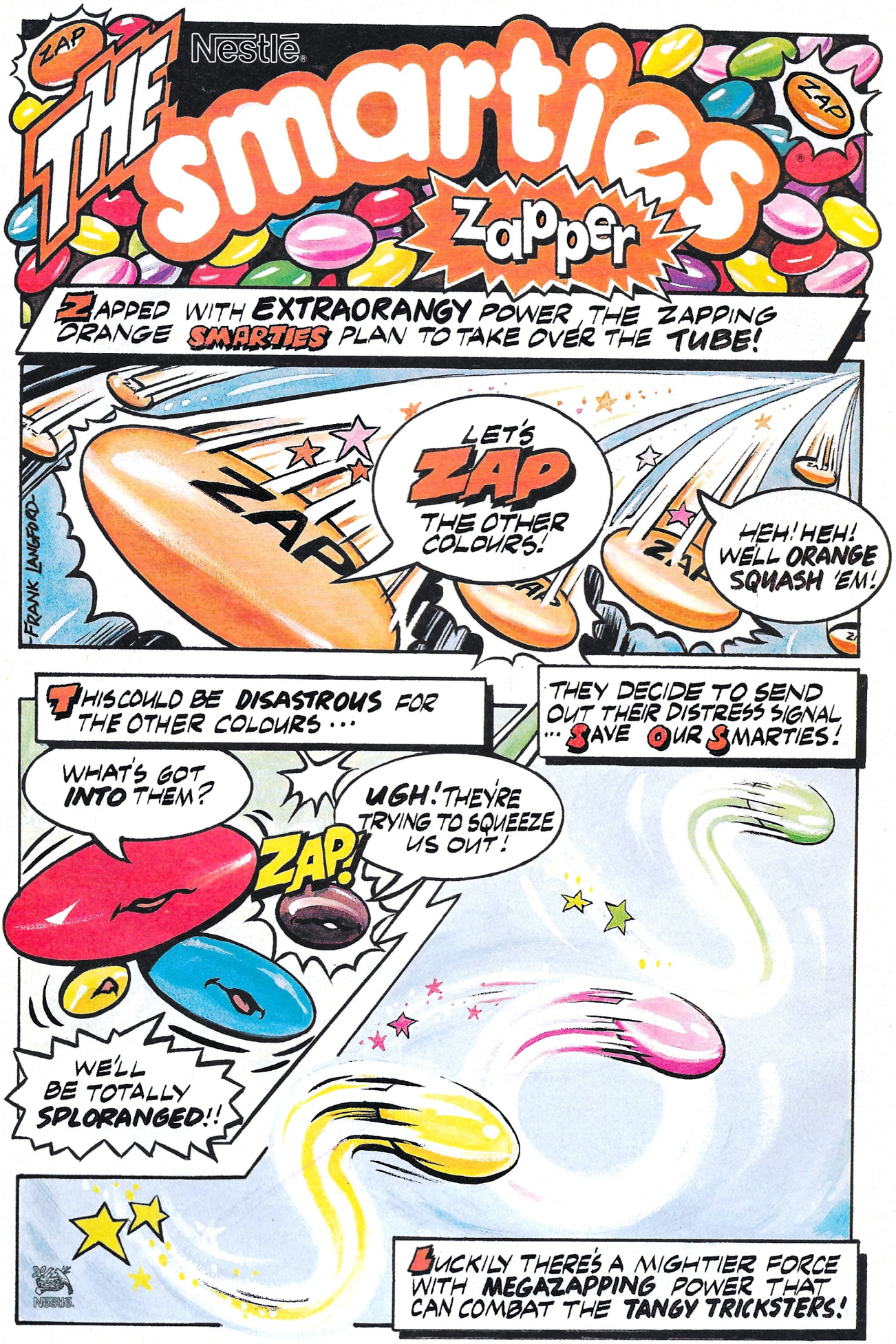
Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

JOIN THE DOTS!

To find out what the Fat Controller can see, Join the dots from one to thirty three!


ZAP
THE
Nestlé
smarties
ZAPPER
ZAP
ZAPPED WITH EXTRAORANGY POWER THE ZAPPING ORANGE SMARTIES PLAN TO TAKE OVER THE TUBE!
FRANK LANGFORD
ZAP
LET'S ZAP THE OTHER COLOURS!
HEH! HEH! WELL ORANGE SQUASH 'EM!
THIS COULD BE DISASTROUS FOR THE OTHER COLOURS ...
THEY DECIDE TO SEND OUT THEIR DISTRESS SIGNAL ... SAVE OUR SMARTIES!
WHAT'S GOT INTO THEM?
ZAP!
UGH! THEY'RE TRYING TO SQUEEZE US OUT!
WE'LL BE TOTALLY SPLORANGED!!
LUCKILY THERE'S A MIGHTIER FORCE WITH MEGAZAPPING POWER THAT CAN COMBAT THE TANGY TRICKSTERS!
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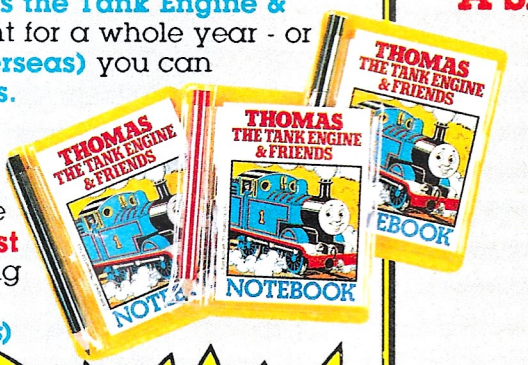

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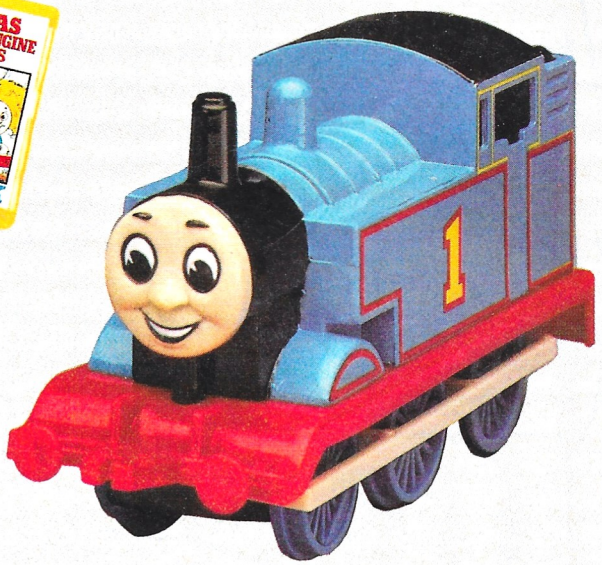

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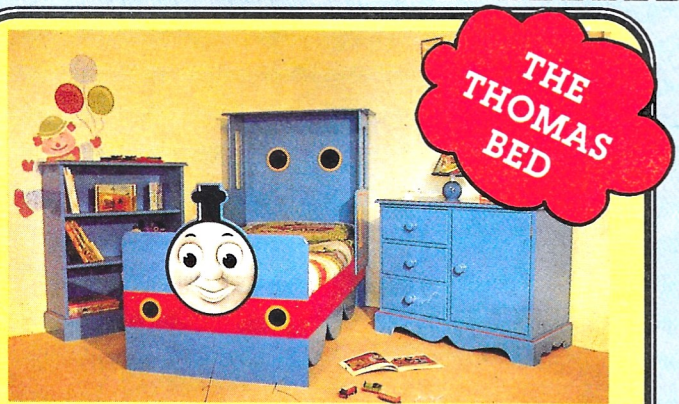

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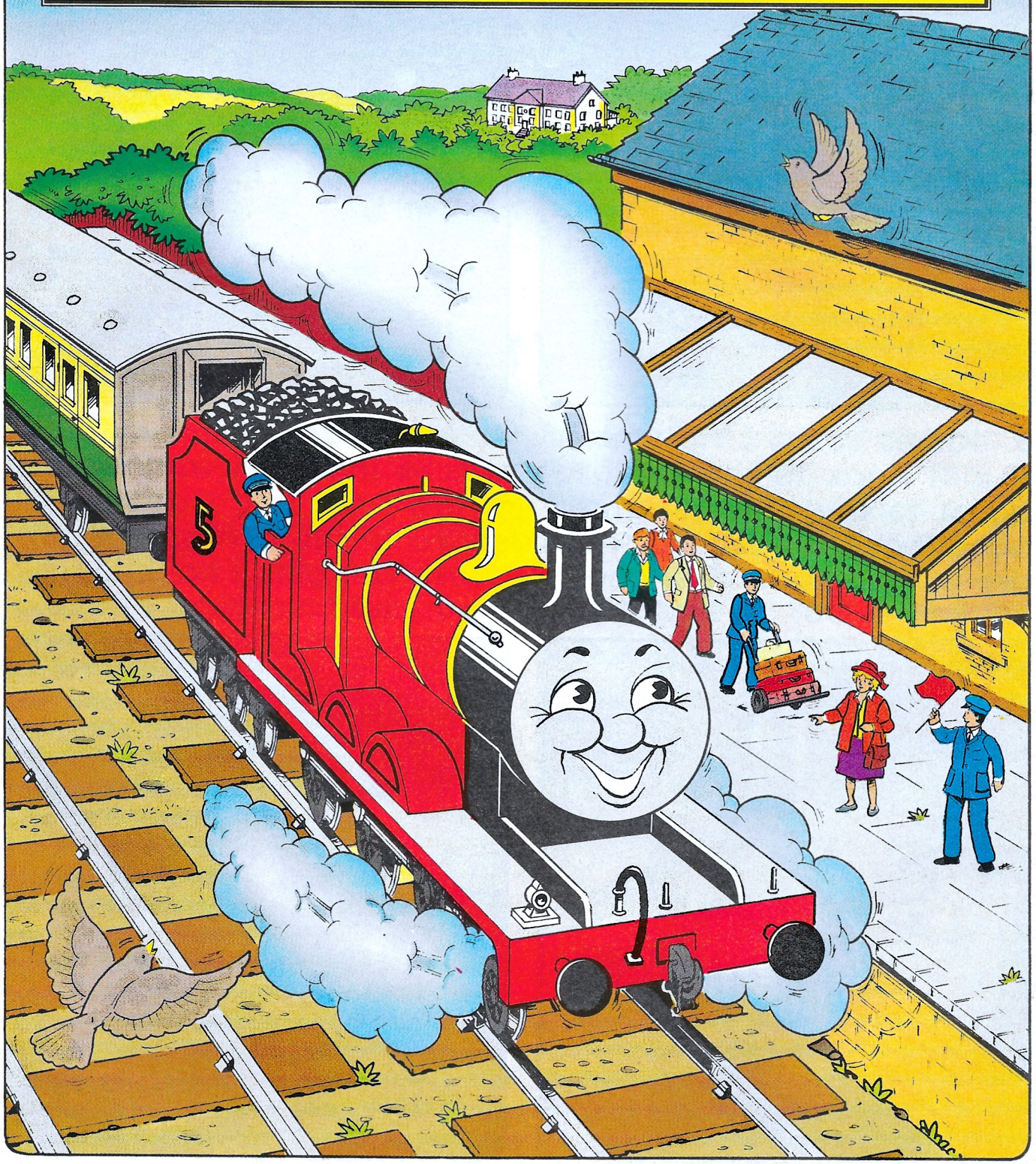
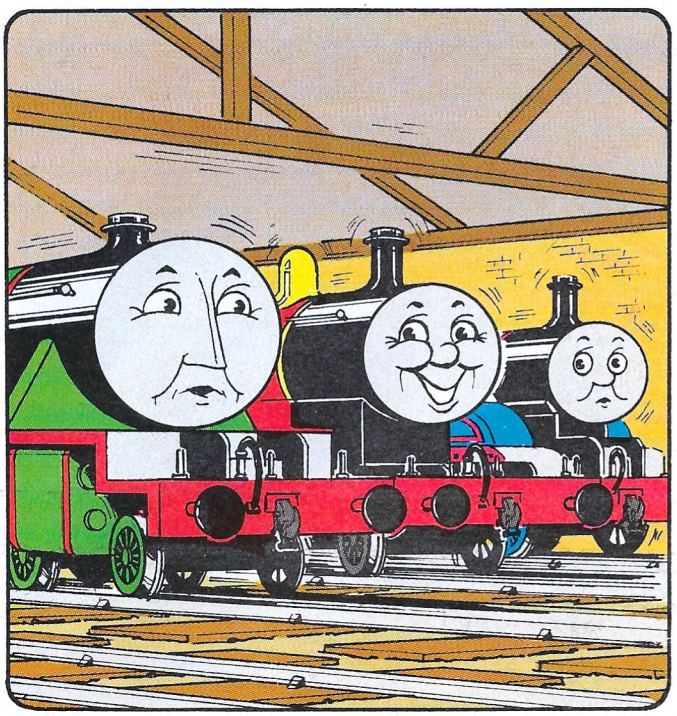
THE SMART ENGINES!

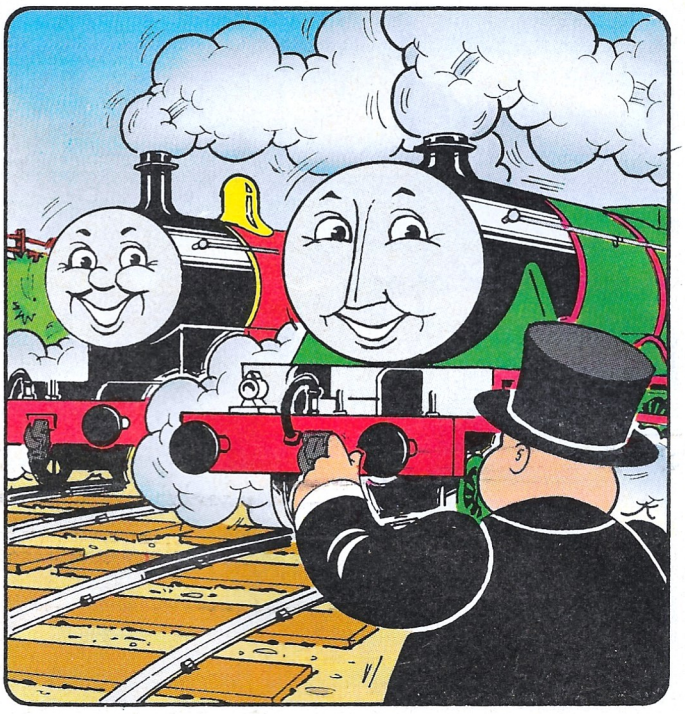


1. A very grand hotel stands near Wellsworth station on the main line. James felt so proud the day he brought some guests from the mainland to the hotel.

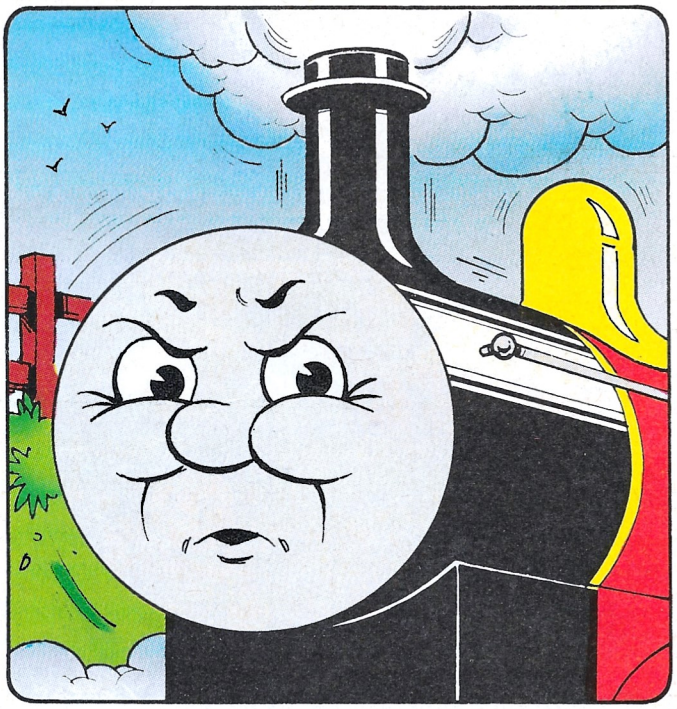
2. While James waited for the hotel porters to unload the guests' luggage, he noticed a lady admiring him. "What a smart engine," she said.



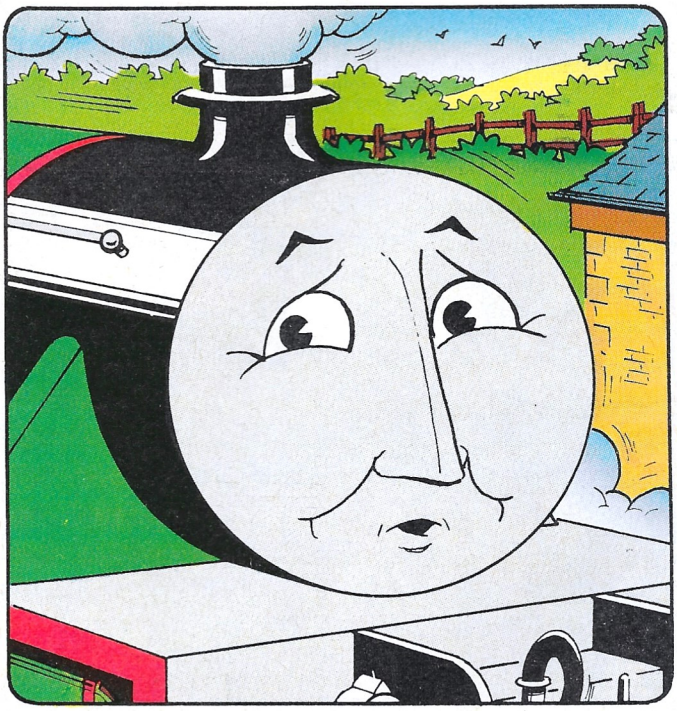
3. James could hardly wait to get back to the shed to boast to the other engines about being smart. "No wonder the Fat Controller chose me for the job," he said.



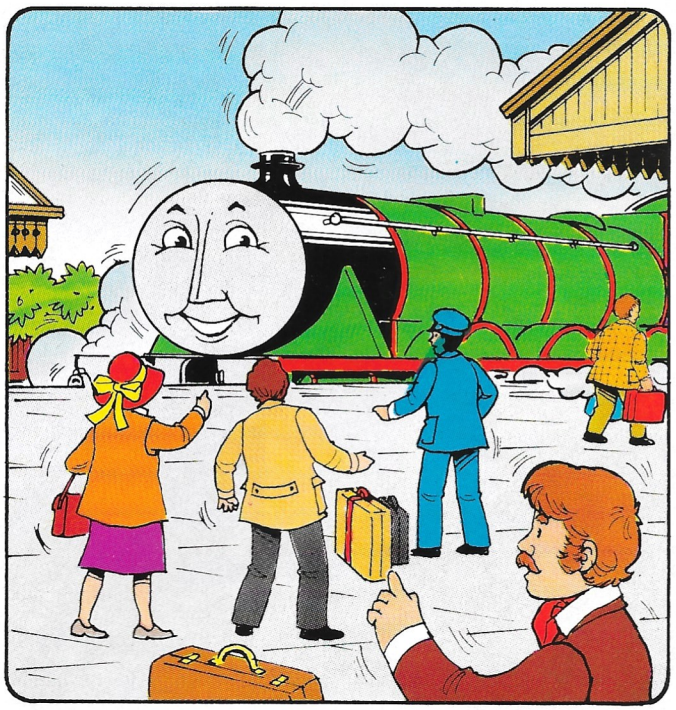
4. A few days later, James was in the yard with Henry when the Fat Controller spoke to them. "Some hotel guests are going back to the mainland," he said.



5. James smiled eagerly, but the Fat Controller told Henry to take the guests to the Big Harbour. James was to shunt trucks instead. "It's not fair!" he huffed.

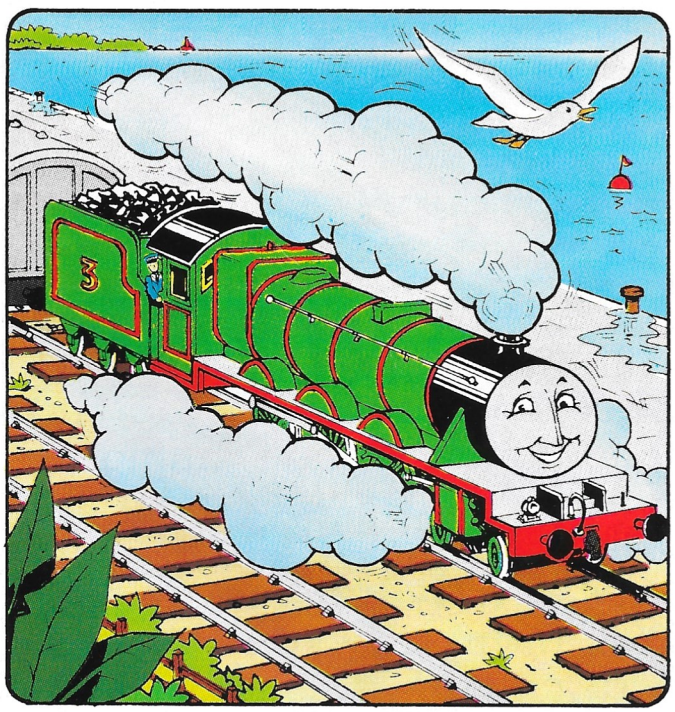


6. Henry wanted to take the important passengers, but now he began to worry about whether he was smart enough for the job. Perhaps James should go he thought.

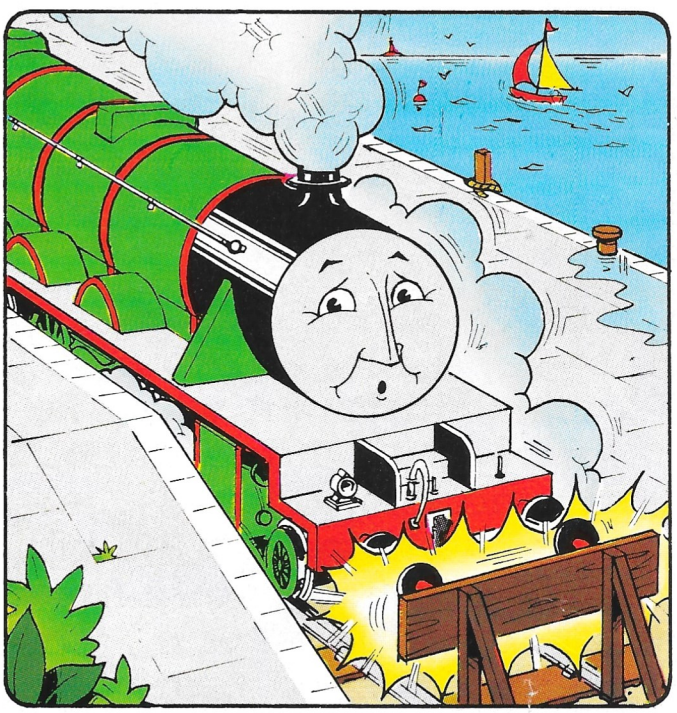


7. But the Fat Controller said Henry must pull the train, so he set off. When he arrived at Wellsworth station, the hotel guests were on the platform waiting for him.

8. Most of their luggage was loaded into Henry's guard's van, but one guest took a big case into the carriage and put it on the luggage rack above his seat.



9. "I must catch the ferry," he said, and the stationmaster warned Henry not to be late. Now Henry was even more nervous and he rushed his journey to the station by the harbour.



10. Henry was so steamed up that he arrived half an hour early! He found it difficult to slow down and he rolled straight into the buffers with a bump!

11. "Oops!" Henry groaned. "James will laugh when he hears what I have done." The coaches suddenly jolted just as the man with the big case was lifting it down from the luggage rack. He dropped the case and out fell lots of valuable silver cutlery. The silver knives and forks were all marked Wellsworth Hotel!

12. "A thief! A thief!" cried the shocked passengers. The harbour police came running up and the thief was arrested. While he was waiting, Henry saw a lady smiling at him. "It's thanks to you the thief was caught," she said. "What a clever engine you are!" Henry grinned. He hoped the Fat Controller would think so too!

THE END!

In our next issue: Pulling passengers!